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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETEL

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RADIO
BROADCASTING

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEFING PAPER ON REPORT OF EISENHOWER
COMMISSION WHICH WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AT NOON MONDAY, MAY 7.
COPIES OF REPORT ITSELF BEING POUCHED. USIA WIRELESS FILE
OF MONDAY, MAY 7 WILL CONTAIN PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT
ENDORING REPORT AS WELL AS A MORE COMPLETE SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

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PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON FUNDING RFE AND RL BASED
ON THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RADIO BROADCASTING

DURING THE CONSIDERATION BY CONGRESS IN THE WINTER OF 1971-72 OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR PROVIDING FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT RADIO FREE EUROPE (RFE) AND RADIO LIBERTY (RL), WIDE SUPPORT WAS EXPRESSED IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS FOR A CAREFUL STUDY BY QUALIFIED EXPERTS OF THE RADIOS AND THEIR PROPER RELATIONSHIP TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. AS A RESULT, THE PRESIDENT APPOINTED A FIVE- MEMBER COMMISSION CONSISTING OF DR. MILTON S. EISENHOWER, CHAIRMAN, DR. JOHN P. ROCHE, DR. EDMUND A. GULLION, MR. EDWARD WARE BARRETT AND DR. JOHN A GRONOUSKI TO PREPARE A STUDY. THEIR FINDINGS, WHICH WERE ENDORSED BY THE PRESIDENT MAY 7, 1973 MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

1. PURPOSE: RFE AND RL CONTINUE TO SERVE AN IMPORTANT PURPOSE AT A TIME WHEN SOVIET INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BOTH OF AN OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL CHARACTER REMAINS AT A HIGH LEVEL AND WHEN FURTHER REDUCTION IN TENSION IN EUROPE CAN BE STIMULATED BY A BROADER KNOWLEDGE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION OF RELEVANT INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

2. RELATIONSHIP TO US GOVERNMENT: A BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO MAKE GRANTS OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS TO RFE AND RL. THIS SMALL FEDERAL BOARD WOULD CONSIST OF FIVE VOTING DIRECTORS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, BY AND WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE, AND TWO NON- VOTING BOARD MEMBERS, REPRESENTING THE RADIO STATIONS.

3. FUNCTIONS OF BOARD: THE BOARD WOULD ADMINISTER GRANTS TO RFE AND RL. IT WOULD REVIEW AND EVALUATE THEIR OPERATIONS TO ASSESS THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE BROAD FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE US.
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IT WOULD FOSTER EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY IN STATION OPERATIONS.

4. BROADENING FINANCIAL SUPPORT: THE REPORT RECOMMENDS REINVIGORATED SOLICITATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO RADIO LIBERTY AND RADIO FREE EUROPE, IN EUROPE AS WELL AS IN THE US.

IT ALSO RECOMMENDS APPROACHES TO WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO RFE AND RL RESEARCH WHICH IS USED BY MANY GOVERNMENTS.

2. ALTHOUGH YOU SHOULD NOT SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON REPORT, YOU SHOULD RESPOND TO QUESTIONS ALONG LINES OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT " THAT THESE VOICES OF FREE INFORMATION AND IDEAS SERVE OUR NATIONAL INTEREST AND MERIT THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE... THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS AMONG NATIONS IS A VITAL ELEMENT IN NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND CONTRIBUTES TO AN ENDURING STRUCTURE OF PEACE." ROGERS

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